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# WAR IN MEXICO?

Why?

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# Secret History.

Plot exposed in Petition  
to the President of the  
United States of America.

Free press defense league.

" Issued with Preface by

"VERAX"

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Frank B. Zappulla  
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## PART I.

This important document which we now place before the whole American public (by special permission of Judge Nations) needs no garnishing of rhetoric. Facts speak louder than argument.

While the pro-German propaganda is doubtless responsible for a mass of mischief, there is no reason to believe that the trouble in Mexico is of Teutonic making in the main. The reader may apply the principle *cui bono* (who reaps the benefit?) to this political embroil, and the question is amply answered in the following revelation.

In any case the present world-war was preceded by mysterious comings and goings between the court of Vienna and the Vatican, a circumstance noticed by Judge Nations in his "*Constitution or Pope.*" Further, we may recall, without attaching too much weight to this coming together of the two would-be world-rulers, the visit of the Kaiser Wilhelm to the Roman Pontiff, when a dazzling vision was unfolded to the Ambitious Monarch of a World-Church and a World-State, which should give reality to the mediaeval dream of a Holy Roman Empire—ruled over by a modern greater-than-Charlemagne. The original Holy Roman Empire, we have been reminded by

Lord Bryce, was neither holy, nor Roman, nor an Empire. So why need its up-to-date counterpart be other than Hohenzollern and Teutonic—knightly after an inverse fashion? It was doubtless dreaming this dream of taking the kingdoms of the world by force that at Jerusalem he donned the seamless robe, and declared "*Ich und Gott sind von ewigkeit.*" Pity that the head of an otherwise, in some respects, great man should have been turned by the advisers to the Papacy, transforming thereby a possible alliance for world-peace (Mr. Chamberlain at Leicester, Nov. 30, 1899,) into premeditation of, and preparedness for, the greatest crime in History.

Should the reader be incredulous as to the political activities of the Papal Suria, we would refer him to (*inter alia*) *Roman Catholicism a factor in European Politics* by Mr. Conybeare, and guarantee that he will find food for serious thought. The political organization behind a religious belief, which boasts that it never changes, and whose motto is *semper eadem*, goes on steadily working for predominance, while unsuspecting citizens, lapped in a false security, prattle of civil and religious liberty, and play into the hands of those who are ever busy weaving the net.

Portugal, France and Italy have, in a large measure, freed themselves from the toils; and the Philippines and Mexico would do the same, if full control were in the hands of those,

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who are opposed to the union of Church and State. But the American Government is to be made the catspaw forsooth of the Italian System to pull the chestnuts, to keep the population in subjection to the priesthood, and consequently to retain them in their present state of ignorance and dependence, while an alien corporate institution is to be confirmed in its deadhand ownership of land and water.

A pretty role this to be played by the land of freedom which is the heritage of the pilgrim fathers, the Quakers, the Baptists and Independents, and of all the waves of immigration that came westward to escape the tyranny of priests and kings!

As this country will never put her own neck under the foot of any sovereign power, be it that of potentate or Pontiff, she has no right to subject any other nation to the yoke, and would do well to aid both Mexico and the Philippines to work out their own salvation on lines at once Republican and Progressive, liberal and liberationist.

A full preparedness is more than military and industrial, and must not lose sight of internal dangers. An all-round Americanism must stand for nationality in states—and in churches. The Teutonic hyphenate, to save his soul alive, is determined henceforth to do that which is lawful and right. So must it be in the case of the clerical hyphenate with his

divided allegiance between a Republican President and a Sovereign Pontiff.

The *los von Rom* movement might have saved Austria—but it was strangled. What became of the healthy movement toward an Americanism of the same enlightened order, which mysteriously vanished some years ago?

If the “Pentecost of Calamity” that has devastated Europe is not to sweep Westward, the causes that brought about that cataclysm must be removed from our midst. We are certainly sowing the wind, even as they did in Europe, who are now reaping the whirlwind.

“VERAX.”

## PART II.

Honorable Woodrow Wilson,

President of the United States:

Your Excellency being charged as Chief Executive of the United States with the responsibility of enforcing the laws of the Nation, we deem it our duty to lay before you information which, if true, touches and concerns our country's welfare in a most vital and dangerous way.

We are informed and believe that the Roman Catholic Hierarchy is now and has been for more than one year last past actively engaged within the territory of the United States fomenting ad inciting revolution in the Republic of Mexico, and attempting to bring about a state of war between the Republic of Mexico and the United States of America.

We are informed and believe that the conspirators desire the *intervention of the United States of America in the affairs of the Republic of Mexico in order that the Roman Catholic Church may regain the political and civil power in said Republic of Mexico from which it was driven by the reform laws of the said Republic.*

We are informed and believe that secret meetings of these conspirators have been held in various cities of the United States,

to-wit: New York, Baltimore, Maryland; Washington, D. C.; San Antonio, Texas; and New Orleans, Louisiana.

We are informed and believe that Archbishop Jose Maria Moray del Rio of Mexico City and Bishop Castellanos of the State of Campeche of the Republic of Mexico have been put forward by the Hierarchy *as the ostensible leaders of these plotters against the peace and tranquility of the United States of America and the Republic of Mexico.*

We are informed and believe that these two men had a conference in the City of New Orleans, Louisiana, with Cardinal James Gibbons of Baltimore, Maryland, and that within a few days thereafter at the home of Enrique Fernandes Castello, St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, an organization was formed known as "The Mexican Peace Assembly Movement," with branches in Los Angeles and San Diego, California; Albuquerque and Columbus, New Mexico; Nogales and Phoenix, Arizona; El Paso, Laredo, Brownsville, Galveston and San Antonio, Texas; New Orleans, Louisiana; Mobile, Alabama; Tampa, Florida; Washington, D. C.; New York City and Baltimore, Maryland.

We are informed and believe that these branches were established and men named to be in charge of each; that Fernandiz Somellera was named to be in charge of the movement in New York City; Ismael Zuniga was appointed to Washington;

and Federico Camboa was given charge over the branches in New Orleans and San Antonio, Texas.

We are informed and believe that The Mexican Peace Assembly Movement hereinbefore referred to had, at the time of its organization, twenty thousand armed, organized and officered men in bands of from eight hundred to two thousand, consisting of both cavalry and infantry; *that these forces were located in various parts of the Republic of Mexico ready to participate in the Revolution the moment the Hierarchy gave the word*; that these bands, at the direction of the conspirators, are now engaged in revolt against the Government of Mexico.

We are informed and believe that after the meeting hereinbefore referred to, where it is claimed the Mexican Peace Assembly Movement was organized, fifty-one men, whose names are in our possession, met in the City of New Orleans, and signed a petition addressed to General Felix Diaz, Hotel Aberdeen, New York City, urging him to head a counter revolution in the Republic of Mexico, and promising among other things, the following: "Behind you we will put all the resources of those parties with which we are united."

We are informed and believe that after this petition was sent to General Felix Diaz, he went to the City of New Orleans and there conferred with the conspirators who signed the petition to him, and on February 16, 1916, the said General Felix Diaz, left the City of New Orleans and went to Tampa, Florida,

after conferring with the conspirators aforesaid, secretly going thence by boat to Tierra, Colorado, State of Vera Cruz, in the Republic of Mexico, and there started the revolution which had been planned against President Carranza.

We are informed and believe that Francisco Beltram, Jr., was sent twice from the City of New Orleans, Louisiana, to Agua Prieta, Republic of Mexico, since January 1st, 1916, to confer with Francisco Villa, the unspeakable bandit and murderer, in an effort to induce said Francisco Villa, to commit such acts of violence against citizens of the United States of America as would compel intervention by the United States; and we sincerely believe that *the raid by Francisco Villa and his murderous band on Columbus, New Mexico, was the outcome of conferences which said Francisco Beltram, Jr., had with the said Villa.*

We are informed and believe that the revolutionary plotters have *deliberately set out to plunge this nation into war with the Republic of Mexico by arousing enmity between the peoples of the sister Republics*, and to this end have had their agents and representatives along the border between the United States and Mexico to invent and send out to the people of the United States deliberate and wilful lies in regard to facts transpiring across the border in the Republic of Mexico and also to send false and lying statements into the Republic of Mexico as to what was taking place among the people of the United States of America.

Your petitioners are futher informed and believe that Cardinal James Gibbons, hereinbefore referred to, lately sent James Selvin, of the University of Santa Barbara, California, as his representative to the Pope of Rome; that said Selvin's mission is to inform Pope Benedict of the progress that has been made by the Roman Catholic Hierarchy in restablishing the power of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy in the Republic of Mexico, and to receive from the Pope such aid and counsel in regard to said matters as he may be able and disposed to give.

We are informed and believe that the said Archbishop Mora, herinbefore named, has taken up his residence for the time being at San Antonio, Texas, and from the city is engaged in directing the various activitives of the plotters against the peace of this Republic and that of Mexico.

We are informed and believe that the said Bishop Castellanos of Campeche now has his headquarters in the City of New Orleans, Louisiana, where his duties are to secure funds and to look after the secret work of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy in the new revolution.

Your petitioners respectfully represent and show that if such a conspiracy against the people of the United States of America and of the Republic of Mexico exists, as herein mentioned, all those guilty of such conspiracy are liable to punish-

ment for violation of Section 13 of the Criminal Code of the United States, which reads as follows:

“Section 13. Whoever, within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States, begins, or sets on foot, or provides or prepares the means for, any military expedition or enterprise, to be carried on from thence against the territory or dominions of any foreign prince or state, or of any colony, district, or people, with whom the United States are at peace, shall be fined not more than three thousand dollars and imprisoned not more than three years.”

We are informed and believe that the fact that the Republic of Mexico has been drenched with the blood of its people in one revolution after another for several years last past is *due almost entirely to the plots and intrigues of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy in the attempt to reinstate the Roman Catholic Church in civil and political power in said Republic*; and your petitioners respectfully represent that it will be a monstrous crime for this powerful Christian nation to allow itself to be driven into the slaughter of the innocent people of Mexico who desire only peace and friendship with us.

WHEREFORE, your petitioners pray that an immediate, impartial and searching investigation be made to ascertain the truth of all matters herein referred to, and that if it be found

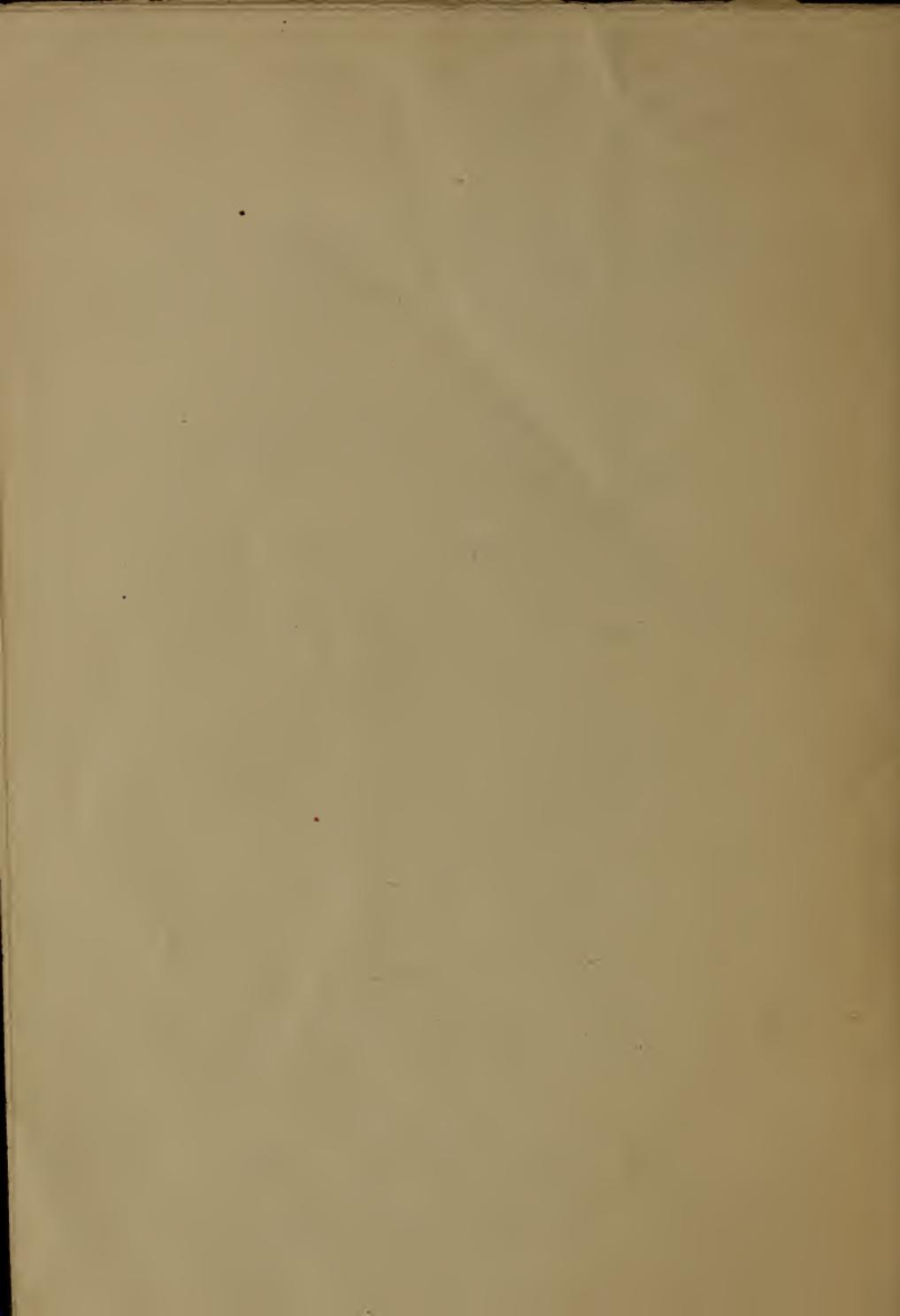
that such a conspiracy exists, that all who are guilty thereof be promptly and vigorously prosecuted regardless of rank or station.

THE FREE PRESS DEFENSE LEAGUE,

By GILBERT O. NATIONS,

*Vice-President and Director of its*

*United States Capital Bureau.*



My Dear Sir:

Please find inclosed herein copy of petition which I have filed with the President of the United States.

This copy is handed to you in the hope that you will render to the President all possible assistance in making the investigation which we ask. If the facts alleged in this petition are true they involve our country in dangers and obligations that are extremely grave, and every patriot in this exigency should actively protect the peace and welfare of the nation.

Trusting in your wisdom and patriotism, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

G. O. NATIONS.

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